

April 11, 1978

LB 170, 33, 131

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President, I'd like to ask Senator Carsten a question if I might. Senator Carsten, could I ask you a question?

SENATOR CARSTEN: Okay.

SENATOR LAMB: I'm wondering why at this late date in the year, why can't we just go ahead and do some remedial work on LB 131, patch that thing up so it will do what it is supposed to do and then that way we would get some action this year. Now if we go ahead with 170 in its present form, as I understand it, it will delay the whole procedure. So that if we are really interested in getting some action it seems to me the fast way would be to use this bill as a vehicle to patch up 131 of last year and then we could be on about our business. What do you think about that?

SENATOR CARSTEN: Okay, Senator Lamb, if I may answer, Mr. President, the Committee and the Legislative Staff, Ron Bowmaster, together with Mr. Bill Peters examined the possibility and that was our intent to start out with, was to use 131 as a basis. Upon their examination and report it was their advice along with the consideration of the Committee that maybe it would be better to and not appropriate to use 131 as a basis but to use a different vehicle to accomplish what we set out to do. They did not think we could do it with LB 131. Now to the best of my knowledge, that was the basis upon which the Committee decided to use 170 for implementation.

SENATOR LAMB: Well, would you agree that starting at this point now, it will delay the whole procedure and that we will not have any real valid equalization for some time to come unless we do go back and just patch up 131 and go ahead. Under this procedure it is delayed some time in the future before it will be a workable system. Is that correct?

SENATOR CARSTEN: Yes, the compliance date is set down the road one year to '79 as opposed to '78. I restate again, Senator Lamb, that even though near eighty percent of the counties are ready and twenty percent are not, that is near fifty percent of the people and though countywise, that's untrue, but it is those counties that have not, is causing the real problem with our unequal distribution of tax dollars and we've got to rectify that problem now and it appeared that by doing this one year we would rectify that by allowing these counties on their own, on the local level, to come back to some near an equal valuation and then next year, 1979, they are all going to have to be on it.

SENATOR SAVAGE PRESIDING

SENATOR SAVAGE: Are there any other lights on? Senator Cope, have you spoken? Senator Dworak, have you spoken? Do you wish to be recognized? Senator Dworak.

SENATOR DWORAK: Mr. President, colleagues, I think that there is a misunderstanding by Senator Schmit and I want to clear that right away. I didn't indicate at all that the problem of unequal values with property across this state is a result of 33. That's not the issue at all. All that I tried to imply was that because we have these unequal values of property it made LB 33 more difficult to work. That's the point. LB 33